

ON TO 2050 Urban Design Services



The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is seeking proposals from highly qualified firms to provide a strong urban design perspective to the region's new comprehensive plan, ON TO 2050.

Now in development and slated for adoption in October 2018, the plan will present specific strategies for making our region more livable and resilient.

See <http://cmap.is/rfp-163> for the full request for proposals, posted on February 10, 2017.

Particularly compared to other public institutions, **CMAP has set a very high standard for integrating design into its planning and policy efforts**, as shown in voluminous materials at cmap.illinois.gov.

The agency now intends to contract with an architectural firm that will bring a similarly strong urban design perspective to the ON TO 2050 plan.



Photograph by Terry Evans



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CMAP is looking for a firm that will deeply understand our region's topics and priorities, and bring a highly collaborative, strong approach to urban design that is tightly integrated with — in no sense grafted onto — the ON TO 2050 plan.

CMAP staff will work closely with the selected urban design firm(s) hired through this RFP to ensure that strategic objectives are met as core concepts and urban design ideas take visual shape.

One of this project's core objectives is to illustrate principles through urban design that convey ON TO 2050 concepts and recommendations.

CMAP anticipates presenting these ideas via conceptual renderings that are engaging for the general public and agency stakeholders alike.

This project is meant to be collaborative — it is in no sense “work for hire” or a series of discrete, disconnected assignments.

We seek collaborators on defining, for example, how visualizations both interactive (web) and static (print) can make principles in the plan come to life, clarifying strategic policies and investments that will define its priorities.

Familiarity with the Chicago region is essential. Refer to RFP section 2 for more details.

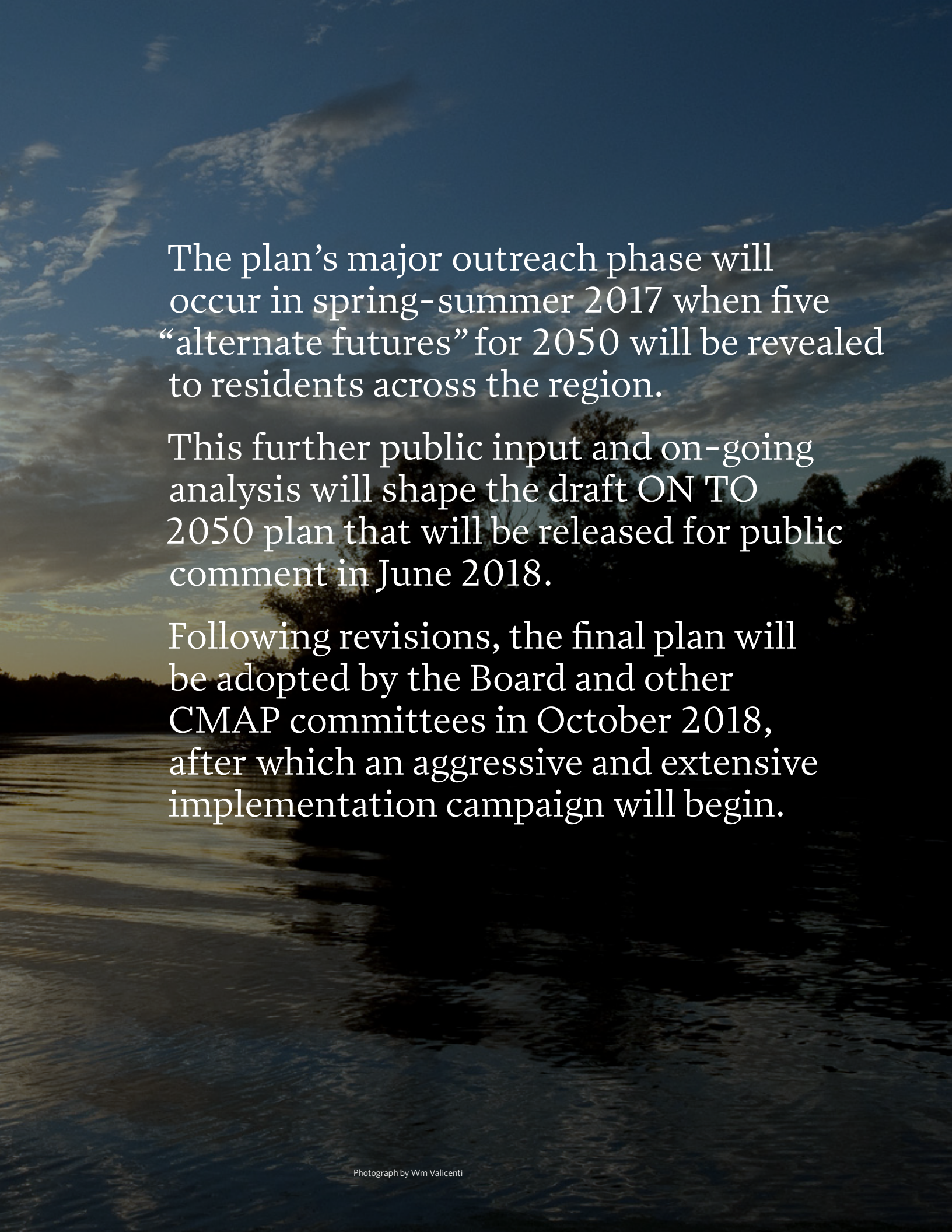


Photograph courtesy of The Morton Arboretum

Having started the plan's development in spring 2016 with a high-profile launch event and series of 100 workshops to engage the public, CMAP in fall 2016 issued a report on Emerging Priorities for ON TO 2050 [PDF]

It describes what is likely to be emphasized in the new plan, including inclusive growth, climate resilience, reinvestment in existing communities, multimodal transportation, and many other topics.

ON TO 2050 will drill deeper into topics covered in GO TO 2040, reaching a higher level of geographic specificity and policy detail.



The plan's major outreach phase will occur in spring-summer 2017 when five "alternate futures" for 2050 will be revealed to residents across the region.

This further public input and on-going analysis will shape the draft ON TO 2050 plan that will be released for public comment in June 2018.

Following revisions, the final plan will be adopted by the Board and other CMAP committees in October 2018, after which an aggressive and extensive implementation campaign will begin.

Project Timeline

This project will consist of two phases, as described in detail by RFP section 2.

Phase 1

April–September 2017

The first phase will be a six-month exploration of the emerging concepts and priorities that will eventually become the ON TO 2050 plan. The selected urban design partner will play an important role in guiding and shaping the expression and communication of these priorities through design.

Phase 2

October 2017–October 2018

The second phase will yield conceptual urban design schemes depicting the collaborative concepts, places, and projects identified during the first phase. Select capital improvements and other recommendations of the ON TO 2050 plan will be included, scheduled for adoption in October 2018. These illustrations or renderings will be central to online and printed CMAP-generated materials that will ultimately include the plan itself.

RFP Timeline

Proposals are due at 3:00 p.m. central on March 10, 2017.

Potential bidders are encouraged to submit written questions by 3:00 p.m. central on February 20, and CMAP will post responses on the RFP web page prior to a non-mandatory pre-bid information session February 27, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. central. The meeting can be attended by teleconference or in person.

From among submitted proposals, selected firms will be invited to interview with the review team on March 27. Attendance in person is preferred, but video conference will be available.

February 10	RFP posted
February 27	Pre-bid information session
March 10	Proposal deadline
March 13	Review begins
March 27	Bidder interviews
March 31	Bidder selected
April 12	CMAP Board approval
April 17	Contract signed, firm's work can commence

If you have any questions, please call CMAP procurement officer Penny DuBernat at 312-386-8756.

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About CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is our region's comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners are developing ON TO 2050, a new comprehensive regional plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities of northeastern Illinois implement strategies that address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues.

Recognition

In the wake of its groundbreaking GO TO 2040 plan adopted in 2010, CMAP has won many national honors, including:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Smart Growth Achievement Award

American Planning Association (APA)
National Planning Excellence Award

Urban Land Institute (ULI)
Chicago Vision Award

Metropolitan Planning Council
Burnham Award for Excellence in Planning

Transportation Research Board (TRB)
Planning Excellence and Communication Awards

Other team members

Thirst

Communication Design
www.3st.com

Our agency works closely with the communications firm Thirst, which designed the previous short plan, logo, and brand materials and which has frequently partnered independent of CMAP with world-class architectural firms. Thirst will provide communication strategy and graphic design services as part of this project, separate from the scope of this RFP. Thirst will consult with CMAP and the urban design firm to add value by using graphic design to shape and present core concepts and ideas. The urban design firm hired through this RFP should treat Thirst as an equal partner, with CMAP of course having final say on all aspects of the project.

Dave Burk

Photography
www.daveburk.com

Dave Burk is an award-winning architectural photographer known for his ability to capture the essence of spaces, using both on-the-ground and aerial photography. Throughout 2017, Dave will be documenting numerous locations throughout the region for use in the ON TO 2050 plan, and will be available to help provide site photography as part of this project, separate from the scope of this RFP.

The seven-county Chicago region's comprehensive planning agency seeks an urban design firm to partner with in development of the ON TO 2050 long-range plan for economic prosperity and quality of life.

This stand-alone executive summary is meant to elicit firms' interest in responding to the complete Request for Proposals #163 for ON TO 2050 Urban Design Services.

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